

Preface

Since 1997 Darmstadt (a town of about 140,000 inhabitants in Southern Hesse) has been known as the first City of Science in Germany. One fifth of the population are students of the Darmstadt Technical University (TUD), the University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt (h_da), and of other private colleges. Many scientific institutes, e.g., several Fraunhofer Society research institutes (FhG) or the Helmholtz Society for Heavy Ion Research (GSI), have their home here on the eastern edge of the Rhine Valley. The European Space Agency (ESA), the European Space Operations Control (ESOC), and the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) are Germany's hot spots for space and satellite missions.

Nevertheless, many research and innovation activities of Deutsche Telekom are concentrated in Darmstadt. The former Research and Technology Centre (FTZ) created many new innovative departments. Since 2016, these activities have been driven by the new board area Technology and Innovation (VTI). As a logical consequence, the 17th International Conference on Innovations for Community Services (I4CS 2017) was given the promising motto "Technology Inspires Innovation."

Many thanks to our former colleagues of the Telekom Innovation Laboratories (T-Labs) for hosting the 17th I4CS. The conference venue, the so-called Freiraum, creates an excellent environment for knowledge exchange among scientists, students, vendors, SMEs, and operators.

We are proud to continue the close corporation with Springer's CCIS series for publication. After a long period of publishing proceedings after the event, the I4CS Steering Committee decided to go back to publishing proceedings before the event, which allows all participants to receive their personal copy with the conference pack. I would like to thank Günter Fahrnberger, T-Mobile Austria, and Christian Erfurth, University of Applied Sciences Jena, who did a great job as proceedings chair and program chair, respectively.

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Gerald Eichler

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